Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended)   A porphyrin compound containing a biotinyl group represented by Formula (I):

Por-A-Bi

wherein:

Por represents a porphyrin residue forming a metal complex selected from a group consisting of heme a, heme b, heme c, variant heme c, heme d, heme d1, siroheme, and heme o;

Bi represents a biotinyl group or a biotinyl group substituted with halogen, nitro, cyano or C_{1-6} alkyl; [[and]]

A ~~represents a C_1-C_{30} hydrocarbyl group, or a C_1-C_{30} heterohydrocarbyl group having 1-10 heteroatoms selected from a group consisting of oxygen, sulfur, and nitrogen~~ is selected from a group consisting of

$\quad$ - NH- NH- ,

$\quad$ - NH- NH- CO- $(CH_2)_n$- NH-,

$\quad$ - NH- NH- CO- $(CH_2)_n$- NH- CO- $(CH_2)_n$- NH-,

$\quad$ - NH- $(CH_2)_n$- NH- ,

$\quad$ - NH- NH- CO- $(CH_2)_n$- NH-,

$\quad$ - NH- NH- CO- $(CH_2)_n$- CO- NH- NH-,

$\quad$ - NH- $(CH_2)_n$- CO- NH- NH-, and

$\quad$ - $NH(CH_2)_n$- CO- NH- $(CH_2)_n$- CO- NH- NH-, and

in the above formulae, each n independently represents 1-10.

2.   (Cancelled)

3.   (Previously Presented)   The compound according to claim 1, wherein the Por is a heme b residue.

4.   (Cancelled)

5.   (Previously Presented) The compound according to claim 1, wherein the Bi is a biotinyl group.

6.   (Cancelled)

7.   (Currently Amended) The compound of claim 1, wherein the A is <u>- NH- NH- CO- $(CH_2)_5$- NH-</u> ~~selected from a group consisting of~~
~~-NH-NH-,~~
~~-NH-NH-CO-$(CH_2)_n$-NH-,~~
~~-NH-NH-CO-$(CH_2)_n$-NH-CO-$(CH_2)_n$-NH-,~~
~~-NH-$(CH_2)_n$-NH-,~~
~~-NH-NH-CO-$(CH_2)_n$-NH-,~~
~~-NH-NH-CO-$(CH_2)_n$-CO-NH-NH-,~~
~~-NH-$(CH_2)_n$-CO-NH-NH-, and~~
~~-NH$(CH_2)_n$-CO-NH-$(CH_2)_n$-CO-NH-NH-~~
~~in these formulae each n independently represents 1-10~~.

8.   (Original) A method for preparing the porphyrin compound containing a biotinyl group according to claim 1, comprising reacting a porphyrin optionally forming a metal complex with a compound containing a terminally aminated biotinyl group in the presence of a coupling agent.

9. - 10.   (Cancelled)

11.   (Original) A hemoprotein labeling compound that is the compound according to claim 1.

12.   (Cancelled)

13.   (Currently Amended) A diagnostic agent for hemoprotein-associated diseases, <u>the diagnostic agent</u> comprising a porphyrin compound containing a biotinyl group represented by Formula (I):

Por-A-Bi

wherein:

Por represents a porphyrin residue forming a metal complex selected from a group consisting of heme a, heme b, heme c, variant heme c, heme d, heme d1, siroheme, and heme o;

Bi represents a biotinyl group or a biotinyl group substituted with halogen, nitro, cyano or C_{1-6} alkyl; and

A ~~represents a C_1-C_{30} hydrocarbyl group, or a C_1-C_{30} heterohydrocarbyl group having 1-10 heteroatoms selected from a group consisting of oxygen, sulfur, and nitrogen~~ <u>is selected from a group consisting of</u>

<u>- NH- NH- ,</u>

<u>- NH- NH- CO- $(CH_2)_n$- NH-,</u>

<u>- NH- NH- CO- $(CH_2)_n$- NH- CO- $(CH_2)_n$- NH-,</u>

<u>- NH- $(CH_2)_n$- NH- ,</u>

<u>- NH- NH- CO- $(CH_2)_n$- NH-,</u>

<u>- NH- NH- CO- $(CH_2)_n$- CO- NH- NH-,</u>

<u>- NH- $(CH_2)_n$- CO- NH- NH-, and</u>

<u>- NH$(CH_2)_n$- CO- NH- $(CH_2)_n$- CO- NH- NH-, and</u>

<u>in the above formulae, each n independently represents 1-10.</u>

14.   (Currently Amended) A therapeutic drug for photodynamic therapy, <u>the diagnostic agent</u> comprising a porphyrin compound containing a biotinyl group represented by Formula (I):

Por-A-Bi

wherein:

Por represents a porphyrin residue selected from a group consisting of uroporphyrin-I, uroporphyrin-II, coproporphyrin-III, protoporphyrin-IX, and hematoporphyrin-IX;

Bi represents a biotinyl group or a biotinyl group substituted with halogen, nitro, cyano or C_{1-6} alkyl; and

A ~~represents a C_1-C_{30} hydrocarbyl group, or a C_1-C_{30} heterohydrocarbyl group having 1-10 heteroatoms selected from a group consisting of oxygen, sulfur, and nitrogen~~ is selected from a group consisting of

- NH- NH- ,

- NH- NH- CO- $(CH_2)_n$- NH-,

- NH- NH- CO- $(CH_2)_n$- NH- CO- $(CH_2)_n$- NH-,

- NH- $(CH_2)_n$- NH- ,

- NH- NH- CO- $(CH_2)_n$- NH-,

- NH- NH- CO- $(CH_2)_n$- CO- NH- NH-,

- NH- $(CH_2)_n$- CO- NH- NH-, and

- NH$(CH_2)_n$- CO- NH- $(CH_2)_n$- CO- NH- NH-, and

in the above formulae, each n independently represents 1-10.